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circumstance, as showing the capability of the colony for the production of this great staple, and the superior character of the article itself. Sir Charles Nicholson again urged the importance of the Imperial Government taking some steps with reference to the establishment of a new and independent colony in North Australia; and concluded his observations by stating as a fact, in answer to Mr. Crawford's objections, that there were at the present time above a million of sheep within the tropics, many of them in a line as far north as 18° ; the clip every year giving an average yield of 2 lbs. per sheep.

The PRESIDENT congratulated the Meeting upon the light which had been thrown upon this Australian subject by practical men, who had brought out facts against theories. He rejoiced particularly in the result of these communications; because he had for many years advocated the establishment of a colony in North Australia, and he had always held to the opinion that it would turn out a good country for settlement. He believed the isothermal lines were not similar in North Australia and in the southern parts of India and the Malayan Archipelago. The extent of the Indian Ocean on both sides of the peninsula of Hindostan communicated great heat to that portion of land; whereas in Australia, with great breadths of land and high plateaus on either side, there were geographical reasons for a different arrangement of isothermal lines which even in theory explained the facts that had been brought before them by Mr. Landsborough and others. He agreed with Sir Charles Nicholson that North Australia ought to be formed into a new colony. In the maps of the Society of Useful Knowledge in 1848 they would find North Australia mapped out under that name. It was then a country without inhabitants, without prospects, without the least notion on our part of anything being realised there, except that Captain Stokes had disembarked in the southern part of the Gulf of Carpentaria, and had very appropriately given to that land the name of the "Plains of Promise." These were very gratifying facts to old geographers; and he was much delighted with the result of the discussion. He begged, on the part of the Society, to return their most hearty thanks to Mr. Landsborough and Mr. Middleton.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

(Printed by order of Council.)

1. *Extract of a Letter from DR. BEKE to SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON.*

My object is to direct attention to what may be called the Delta of the Ethiopian Nile—formed when the Delta of Lower Egypt was not—which has a material effect on the latter; for, whatever may be the source of the waters of the inundation of Lower Egypt, it is the Atbara which brings down from the Upper Delta the *slime* which fertilizes the land.

The extensive *alluvial* plains of Ethiopia, which have thus been abraded and carried down by the Nile to form and fertilize Lower Egypt, are those to which Mr. Samuel W. Baker has recently drawn attention as "a possible source of an abundant supply of cotton," and which (as you will perceive from the enclosed document) I brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government *thirteen years ago*; this being, in fact, the source whence the Egyptian cotton was derived, which forty years ago did not exist, and now in this present year is calculated to produce 150 millions of pounds in weight!